Statutory Development Board for Konkan

*457. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Maharashtra is requesting his Ministry from time to time for the establishment of separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan;

(b) if so, Union Government's response thereto and the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from the State Government of Maharashtra for establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan region (which now forms part of the Development Board for the rest of Maharashtra) by amending article 371 (2) of the Constitution.

Article 371(2) of the Constitution authorises the President to set up separate development boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra. Three Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra were established in 1994 in the State of Maharashtra for a period of 5 years. Vide Notification dated the 28th April, 1999 the term of these Development Boards has been extended by a period of 5 years i.e. upto 30.4.2004.

It was felt that before a view was taken regarding establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan it would be necessary for the Government of India to satisfy themselves about the effectiveness with which the existing Development Boards have worked in Maharashtra. Accordingly, the impact assessment report about functioning of these Development Boards has been called for, from the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission has informed the Ministry of Home Affairs that their Evaluation Study on "Functioning of Development Boards of Maharashtra" has not been completed so far and that a report would be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs as soon as it is ready.